

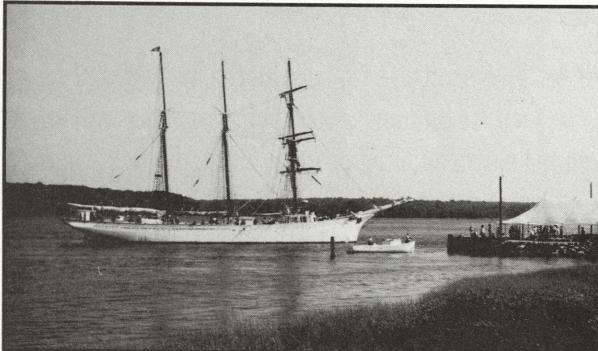
The Rhumb Line: Maine Maritime Museum Newsletter

Fall 1994

A Late Summer of Tall Ships

Maine Maritime Museum hosted visits from two magnificent Tall Ships this summer. In August, visitors climbed the decks of *Gazela*, the oldest wooden sailing vessel still sailing, and in September "HMS" *Rose*, one of the largest active tall ships tied alongside our newly restored historic Deering Pier.

The weekend of August 26, *Gazela* gracefully swept into Bath, captained by Mark Crutcher and guided by Bill Rich, for a lovely weekend full of good weather and delighted crowds.



Gazela makes an easy approach to the new Deering Pier

Built in Portugal in 1883, the 177-foot (sparred length), 3-masted barkentine spent 67 years hauling cod on the Grand Banks. In 1968 the Philadelphia Ship Preservation Guild, a group of dedicated volunteers, formed to return *Gazela* to like-new condition (and to start sailing her!).

The Museum expected the Tall Ships weekends to attract up to 1,500 people each day, and we easily met (and exceeded) that goal with *Gazela*. MMM was sorry to not experience the same success two weekends later.

"HMS" *Rose*, scheduled to arrive Friday, September 9, found herself stormbound off of Halifax, Nova Scotia, unable to make port in time to meet eager visitors (and Museum staff). The magnificent hull steered round the Kennebec River the next Monday for a day-long stay, complete with lobsterbake, fuel, mail and crew change. While this was a brief stop, hopefully *Rose* will return for a longer period next year.

Rose, 179 feet long (sparred length), is patterned after a late 18th century Royal Navy frigate that saw action in the Seven Years War and the American Revolution. *Rose* was built in America in 1970, exactly resembling in outboard profile the famous British ship; her home port is now Bridgeport, Connecticut.

In gearing up for the ships, two Bath Parent Teacher Organizations volunteered much time and effort to make the

events successful. The two groups, from Dike-Newell and Fisher Mitchell Schools, helped the Museum meet its visitation goals by distributing posters and brochures throughout the greater Mid-Coast region. Dressed in red striped vests, the smartly-organized groups served as food vendors, providing full lunches, snacks and drinks to hungry visitors. Money raised from food sales will help support education programs at the Museum.

MMM was supported by friends from all over the community: 900 volunteer hours helped to make the events run with nary a hitch; and coverage from all three major t.v. networks and several newspapers covered the northern New England area, informing about the chance to get on board. Thank you to all!

John Gardner Ship Models Exhibited

"More by Eye than by Measure: The Art of John P. Gardner" fills our riverside gallery with a stunning display of beautifully designed and fabricated models. The walls are filled with drawings of boats and of waterfronts where artist John P. Gardner has lived and worked.

Gardner's models capture the complete essence of each vessel and the context in which it was used: most are depicted under way or under construction. Included in the show is the 1937 America's Cup victor *Ranger* on builder's ways, and the schooner *Grace Bailey*, known to many today as the *Mattie*.



Steamer *Cimbria* by John P. Gardner

Mr. Gardner has spent a lifetime working on the water and makes his home in Castine, Maine, where he grew up. Sandra Dinsmore, guest curator of the exhibition, has written a full-length biography of Gardner's life on the waterfront and the development of his modelling skills, which should soon be in publication.

This exhibition brings together more than a dozen of Gardner's most important works, including schooners, yachts, sailboats, a ferry, and passenger steamers. The exhibition remains on view through April 2, 1995.

From the Chart Table

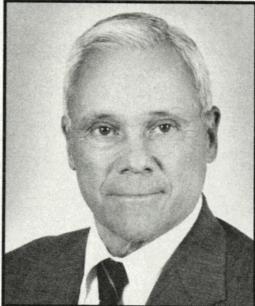
It's October, a month of changing seasons and changing times, an opportunity to look back on the accomplishments of the summer and think about the challenges that lie ahead.

★ The Shipyard has been busy as always with *Summertime's* hourly Kennebec River cruises; summer daycampers; inquisitive visitors; and ongoing demonstrations of blacksmithing, drafthorses hauling large loads, and launching a model schooner. Our waterfront has been further enlivened by the presence of the graceful *Joyce Marie*, a classic sardine carrier on friendly loan from Stinson Seafood Company, and the return of the Grand Banks schooner *Sherman Zwicker*, back from a summer's cruise to Newfoundland.

★ As an encore to the Museum's Nautical Folk Art and John P. Gardner exhibitions, we are pleased to announce our recent acquisition of 13 historic paintings (including the famed 1844 portrait of the City of Bath), two ship carvings, a half-model and a classic sternboard, all from the Sewall shipbuilding family. Together with the 400,000 Sewall manuscripts we have just sorted in preparation for cataloging, these artifacts most certainly represent one of the most important private maritime collections in Maine.

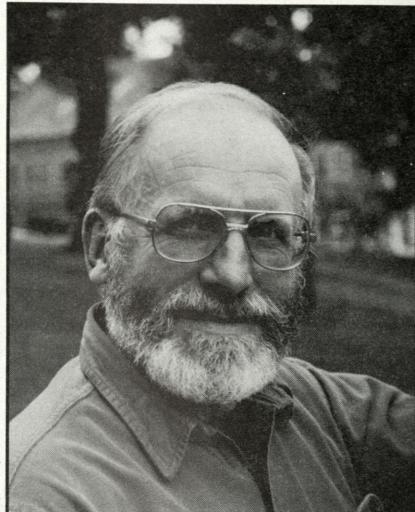
★ More than 14,000 children from 141 Maine towns have experienced and enjoyed the Museum's educational programs so far this year. "Kennebec Connections" begins this fall, linking students from riverfront towns Bath and Oakland to explore the contrasts of the mighty Kennebec's influence upon the growth, direction and development of their towns and industries since the early 1800s.

Maine Maritime Museum continues to expand its activities and enrich the lives of all the communities it serves. Small wonder that a *Times Record* readers' poll recently called us the "Best All-Around Museum."



Ned Harding, Director

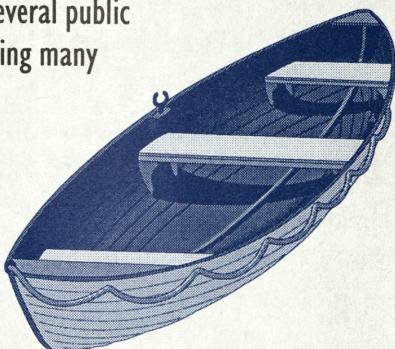
worked for Bill Cannell's boat shop in Camden; Broward Marine, Inc. in Michigan; and Chris Craft Corp., also in Michigan. Bloemendaal replaces Philip Shelton, who taught the Apprenticeshop curriculum for ten years.



John Bloemendaal

Under Bloemendaal's leadership, the Apprenticeshop will return its focus to building small craft. Students will work through the entire building process: lofting lines, steaming frames, planking, joinery and varnishing the final brightwork. Students will also address the issues of conservation and stabilization of boats in the Museum's historic collections. Incorporated into the curriculum will be industry safety standards as well as library research of the history, origin, and construction details of boats built in the shop.

New goals for the A-shop are part of the Museum's strategic plan, a four-year blueprint which maps goals and objectives for revamping several public programs, including updating many of the current exhibits, restoring the historic nineteenth-century buildings, and building an auditorium and education center. The Museum hopes to build a new Apprenticeshop where visitors will be better able to watch boats being built—both small craft and possibly a long-term project like reconstructing the historic *Virginia*, the first ocean-going vessel built in North America (Popham Beach, Maine) by British settlers.



During the four-week interval between Apprenticeshop Managers, the program was led by master boatbuilders Sonny Hodgdon from Hodgdon Brothers in East Boothbay, Maine, and Arno Day, an independent boatbuilder from Sedgwick, best known for his fine lobsterboat designs.

New Face... New Direction

The Apprenticeshop set a new course with the hiring of John R. Bloemendaal as Apprenticeshop Manager and Senior Instructor in early September.

Bloemendaal is an educator who has spent the past eight years in the Maine Technical College system as a boatbuilding instructor. While "in the trade" for fifteen years, Bloemendaal

Maine Maritime Museum's Fall Lecture Series

Wednesday, October 19

Shipwrecks Along Maine's Coast

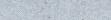
Author William P. Quinn will share stories and insights about Maine's "soupy fog" and "capricious storms" which continue to strand even the most knowledgeable mariners.



Wednesday, October 26

Following the Snow Squall

Maritime historian Nicholas Dean tells the story of one captain's very bad luck and heroic efforts to rescue his ship, the famed *Snow Squall*.



Wednesday, November 9

Penobscot Expedition

Warren Riess will discuss his work with the University of Maine to locate and explore the remains of some 35 ships in the Penobscot Expedition of 1779.



Wednesday, November 16

The Dirigo

Tad Lyford will trace the career of the 4-masted bark, *Dirigo*, the first steel sailing vessel built in America, highlighting some of her adventures (and misadventures).



Wednesday, November 30

New England Shipwrecks

Author William P. Quinn travels the Atlantic coastline as he presents stories of coastal wrecks, as taken from his work, *Shipwrecks Around New England*.

All lectures run from 7-9 p.m. in the Maritime History Building. Pre-registration suggested. Admission: \$5 NM, \$4 M Call (207)443-1316 to reserve a seat.

Christmas at the Museum

This year's Maritime History Building Open House is Sunday, December 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00

p.m. Kids may create and decorate tree ornaments, and local school choruses will perform throughout the day.

Don't miss the tree lighting ceremony at 4:30!



We have decided to delay the Donnell House Christmas celebration until December, 1995. MMM is dedicated to researching Bath and Donnell Family Christmas traditions dating between 1870 and the turn of the century, allowing us to present a true representation of a Victorian Christmas.

Percy & Small History Book Underway

by Nathan Lipfert

We are pleased to announce that the long-planned history of the shipbuilding and shipowning firm of Percy & Small is now underway. \$66,000 has been raised, half the estimated cost of publishing the book, and work now begins in earnest. The Publications Committee has completed a contract with the authors, Ralph L. Snow and Douglas K. Lee. The co-authors have already accomplished a substantial amount of research, drawing of plans and other preparation work. The book is expected to be available for sale in the spring of 1997.

The book is planned to be approximately 330 pages, and to include about 120 pages of photographs, drawings and plans and will fulfill part of the Museum's Strategic Plan. The authors will produce not only an in-depth history of Percy & Small and the people associated with the firm, but will offer readers a completely new understanding of the construction of the huge four-, five-, and six-masted schooners built by Percy & Small.

There is little published on the economics of building and operating these giant wooden sailing vessels, or on the technology of their construction. With information garnered from such sources as the William F. Palmer Fleet Records in the Museum's library, and original Percy & Small records, the authors can craft a fresh look at the Shipyard that is now part of this Museum. The scholarship and the knowledge which these authors can bring to the project will produce a classic history of the largest schooners ever built.



British Maritime Singer/Songwriters to Perform

Highly-regarded British folk duo Dave Webber and Anni Fentiman will make Bath their only northern New England stop during a two-week American concert tour when they present their repertoire of traditional and modern British folk songs and songs of the sea in the Maritime History Building at 8 p.m. Tuesday, November 1.

Fentiman's "heavenly" voice blends beautifully with Webber's strong, deep

baritone to create unforgettable music. The couple has recorded "Lady of Autumn" with the group Beggar's Velvet and may also be heard on their new release, "Together Solo." Webber's songbook "Summer Dusk on Country Lanes," includes fourteen newly-composed works. Webber has such a keen gift for writing in traditional style that many of his songs have been mistaken for old British folk songs.

Admission is \$6 adults, \$3.50 children. Museum members will be admitted for \$4.



Corporators Column

by Henry Thomas

At the Annual Meeting on September 24, we voted to change the definition and clarify the purpose of the Board of Corporators. The Board title has been dissolved and the group is now to be known as "Corporators." Our duty is to act as a resource pool of individuals willing to offer expertise and assistance to the Museum staff and to offer advice to the Chair of the Board of Trustees: the same basic mission as before.

The change is a helpful clarification, I believe, and more accurately reflects the reality of our situation. It was confusing to think of us as a board. Since we had no mission to make policy, nor matters to decide upon, it did not make organizational sense to be independent of, or to duplicate, the Board of Trustees.

Furthermore, the Corporators will no longer have a "Chair." (This follows, since there is no "Board!") Bylaws now create a "Trustee Committee on Corporators," whose chair is to be a regular member of the Board of Trustees. This Committee is charged with administering corporator functions, seeing that information flows in both directions, and listening to our suggestions, comments, and advice. A key task of the Committee is to maintain biographical background information on each Corporator.

Since this last point is particularly important in order for the individual corporator role to succeed, I want to especially urge those of us in the 50% who have not yet returned the biographical form sent out by fellow corporator Dick Card, c/o the Museum, to take action today! My forgetter is getting better too, but Dick has put in a lot of time helping us and you can see the problem if the Museum staff and Trustees don't know who we are nor how we can help.... So shape up (and thanks)! I look forward to working together with you for many years to come.

New Trustees Elected

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 24, the following new members, elected at the Annual Members Meeting earlier that same day, were welcomed: Terrance Geaghan, Richard Klingaman, Richard Murray, and Edward Harding (whose term will begin upon completion of his service as Executive Director). Re-elected to the Board were: Richard Dalbeck, Sara Graves, Henry Keene, Kenneth Kramer, Elizabeth Noyce, C. Warren Ring, Houghton Trott, and David Weiss. All newly elected and re-elected Trustees have three-year terms.

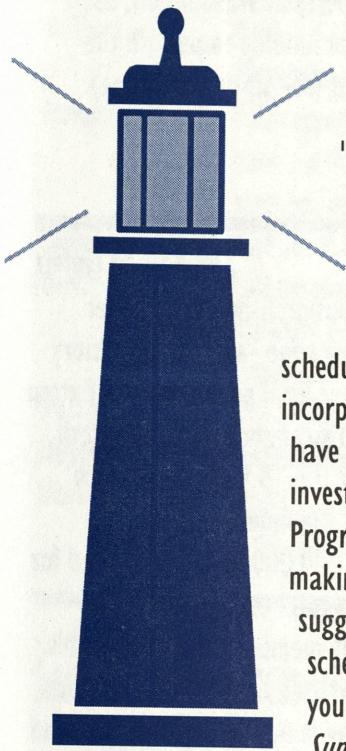
The Board elected the following officers for the coming year: Leonard Cronkhite, Jr., M.D., Chair; Edward Harding, Vice-Chair; Samuel A. Ladd, III, Treasurer; C. Warren Ring, Secretary. Former Chair William Peterson will stay on the Board as Past President for one year.

John Sawhill and Henry Thomas are joining the Board for one-year terms, representing the Volunteer Council and the Corporators, respectively.



Cruise the Coast

This summer our day-long cruises covered a lot of ground on board *Summertime*, travelling to several treasured spots and discovering new places, too.



Many times passengers told us, "I've been on every one of the Museum's long cruises now. If you can find some new places to go, count me in as a passenger!"

We've begun compiling the schedule for next year's trips, and plan to incorporate some new cruise tracks. If you have any particular haunt you'd like to investigate by water, let our Public Programs Department know. We're even making a game of it: if you're the first to suggest a new trip which makes the 1995 schedule, you'll win a free cruise along your suggested route, or anywhere else *Summertime* goes next season.

Submit your proposed agenda to:

Cruise the Coast Contest, Maine Maritime Museum,
243 Washington Street, Bath, ME 04530

MMM Wish List

- ✓ Computer image scanner: HP ScanJet IIcx or IIP
- ✓ \$ to help cover the \$1,900 cost of 12 radios which have been indispensable for communication throughout the Shipyard, waterfront & buildings
- ✓ Fax software for PC: Delrina WinFax PRO 4.0 or equivalent
- ✓ Vacuum for spills & messes in Education Building (used or new)
- ✓ Garden cart to green up Donnell House gardens
- ✓ Old films/videos relating to Maine's maritime history and coastal life: ship- & boatbuilding, fishing, naval vessels, etc.
- ✓ Oversized shelving to store large documents and photographs (can be purchased for about \$700 from Global or Arrow Star distributors)
- ✓ Cassette player for use in education programs
- ✓ N.Y. Maritime Register on microfilm (can be purchased from the Philadelphia Maritime Museum)
- ✓ Overhead projector for Trustee/Corporator meetings & Symposia (cost \$300 - \$400 new)
- ✓ Three metal storage cabinets for storing A-shop tools and supplies, used or new
- ✓ Electric golf cart, used or new, for Shipyard transportation for handicapped visitors

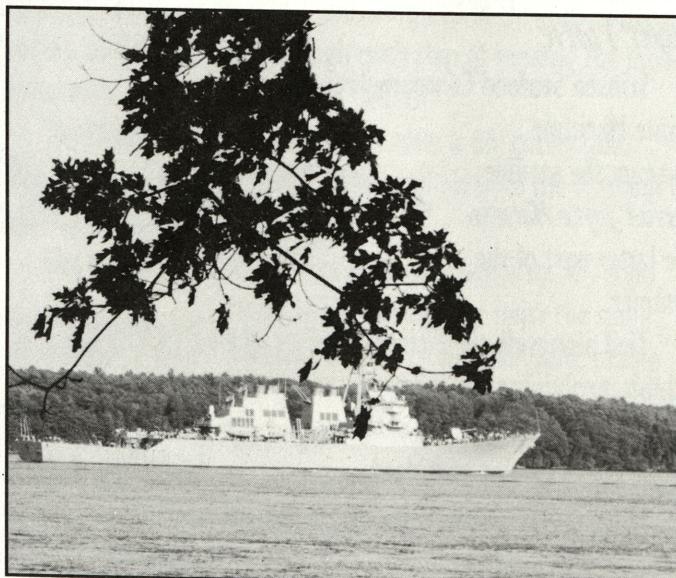
Our thanks to the Freeport Historical Society for donating 25 adult lifejackets to our waterfront fleet and to John Bloemendaal for giving us a blender to be used in the education department in response to our last Wish List.

Aloha USS McCain

After poor visibility kept her in port for several days past schedule, the Navy's newest destroyer, USS *John S. McCain* DDG 56, finally saw sunlight and headed for Hawaii during the last week in July.

Just downriver from Bath Iron Works, large crowds lined the banking and piers of the Museum, eagerly awaiting the first sight of her sleek gray hull beginning the first stage of passage down the Kennebec. Shipyard Manager Caitlin Steadman broke out a special farewell flag signal and dipped the colors just as the *McCain* came abreast of the flagpole at the Lobster Building.

From the Fitting Out Pier, Museum member "Black Powder Annie" (a.k.a. Ann Heldenbrand of South Portland) boomed a loud, smoky three-gun salute. After being ordered "Attention Starboard," the ship's crew, in dress whites, lined the deck and returned flags, snapped to attention and saluted, bringing tears to the eyes of many who watched.



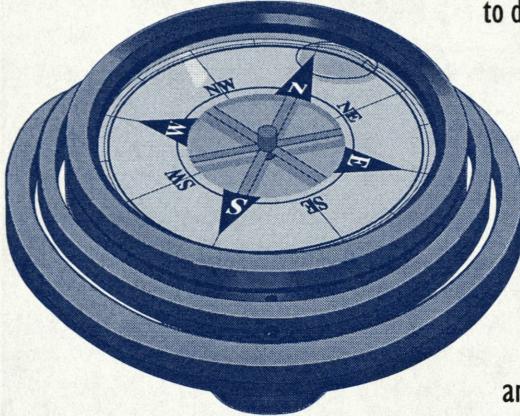
USS *John S. McCain*

Strategic Plan Progress

We are storming on with the four-year strategic plan for the Museum campus: to restore and revitalize the Percy & Small Shipyard by evaluating, then updating exhibit interpretation for the five original buildings; to develop a year-round Shipyard visitation complex, including restoring Donnell House and carriage house and building a new Apprenticeshop; to add an auditorium/education center for additional library, office, and educational program space at the south end of the Maritime History Building; to obtain funding for staff career enhancement, publications (i.e. Percy & Small and Patten books), and collections enhancement.

Preliminary activity and cost estimates are complete for the Shipyard, year-round Donnell House visitation complex, auditorium, education center and Apprenticeshop. As leaves blow around the yard (and before snowflakes fly) painters are washing, scraping and painting the Mill & Joiner Shop, the Paint & Treenail Shop, and painting and repairing the roof of the Leon

L. Bean Lobstering Building. (This maintenance work follows the stabilization course charted for us by Adams & Roy Consultants as part of a 1992 grant from the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property in Washington, D.C.) Inside our doors, we've secured initial funding to publish the history of the Percy & Small Shipyard (see story page three).



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Patten Book to be Published

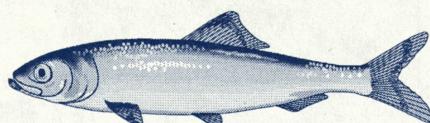
by Nathan Lipfert

Fundraising has been recently accomplished for another book that has been planned for a long time—a maritime history of the Patten family of Bath and other local ports. Several Patten firms in different Kennebec and Androscoggin River towns both built and owned vessels. The fleet of G.F. & J. Patten of Bath became the largest of its time under the American flag.

Funds amounting to more than \$40,000 have been raised for this project, which should pay for its total cost. Much of the funding has come from Patten family members and from Bath's Davenport Fund. The book will be written by Museum members Ken Martin and Lin Snow. Scheduling is now being worked out so that Snow can work on both this book and on the Percy & Small history described on page three. The Museum is working with the Patten Free Library in Bath on this publication.

Joyce Marie

Stinson Seafood Company loaned Maine Maritime Museum the sardine carrier *Joyce Marie* in the latter part of the summer.

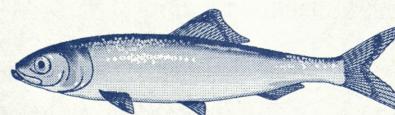
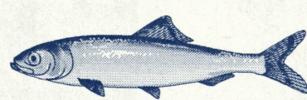


Tied alongside the Fitting-Out Pier, she's a splendid exhibit, explaining the industry and serving as a perfect complement to the *Lobstering & The Maine Coast* exhibit next door.

Carriers like *Joyce Marie* are the workhorses of the sardine-fishing industry. They move through coves and bays, gathering fish from purse nets, seines, or weirs and delivering them to canneries for processing. Stinson's Bath plant, two miles upriver from MMM, handles about seventy percent of the 100 million cans of fish

packed in Maine each year.

The *Joyce Marie* is 69 feet long, 18 feet abeam, and draws 8.6 feet. Built by Newbert & Wallace of Thomaston in 1948, she measured 51 tons gross, 40 tons net. The Belfast Packing Company operated her briefly as the *Glenn-Geary* before she was acquired by Stinson.



Spend this Autumn with Maine Maritime Museum

November

- November 1 British folk duo Dave Webber and Anni Fentiman perform, 8 p.m.
- November 16 Fall Lecture Series: Tad Lyford will trace the career of the 4-masted bark, *Dirigo*, the first steel sailing vessel built in America, 7 p.m.
- November 5 Girl Scout Badge Program: World Neighbors
- November 9 Fall Lecture Series: Warren Riess will discuss his work exploring the remaining ships in the Penobscot Expedition of 1779, 7 p.m.
- November 12 *Thirty Years in Collections* Exhibition opens
- November 24 Thanksgiving; MMM closed
- November 25 Begin Christmas shopping at the Museum Shop. Kids admitted free w/ paying adult.

November 27

November 30

Shipyard closes for season

Fall Lecture Series: Author Bill Quinn will share stories and insights from his work, *Shipwrecks Around New England*, 7 p.m.

December

- December 4 Annual Open House/Christmas Celebration 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- December 7 Volunteer Recognition Banquet (time TBA)
- December 10 Girl Scout Badge Program: Toymaker
- December 17 Girl Scout badge Program: Artistic Crafts
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2 Christmas Vacation: kids admitted free w/paying adult
- December 25 Christmas Day; MMM closed

Schooner Launched 1,000 Times!

Percy & Small would be shocked to learn of this summer's record number of launchings in the shipyard!



Roy Wheeler alongside the "ways;" Ready...

Several volunteers planned, orchestrated and implemented a terrific shipyard demonstration, which explained to visitors the actual launching process as it happened in the early 1900s.

Houghton Carr, Ken Castner, Ed Donahoe, Jim Rives and Bud Warren met several times at the beginning of the season, exchanging ideas and dividing tasks, determined to make a super, hands-on activity in the shipyard.

What a success! A fairly constant cluster of intrigued visitors was ever-huddled around the large launching "tank," made of an old lobster hold



Set...

explained the many necessary jobs involved in the launching process, and then talked through each step of sending the model off its ways and into the waiting "tides."

The fiberglass model, patterned after a 60' cutter built around 1887, was made in Cape Cod and given to the Museum by Roy Wheeler.

The cradle was crafted from pine to which a set of Teflon ways was fastened (not quite the same materials as Percy & Small used; blame our heresy on technology!). Great thanks go to the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia for helping with the design and sharing technical information.



Go!

filled with fresh water. A docent or staff member briefly presented Bath's shipbuilding history,

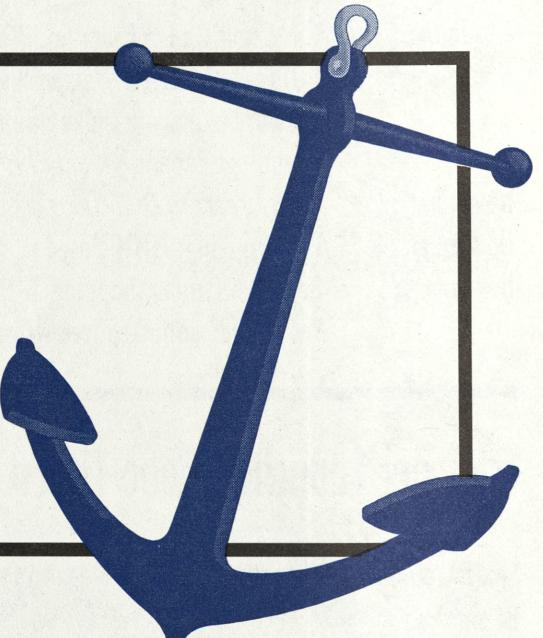
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newsletter by Kristen Pulkkinen

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